

Suzanne Rios  
188 Mahoney Rd  
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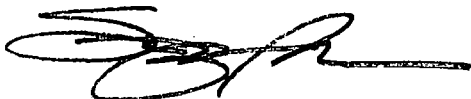
Ted Linnert  
EPA Records Center-Superfund Reference Center  
1595 Wynkoop Street  
Denver, CO 80202

Dear Mr. Linnert:

I am a long-time resident of our city, and I am writing to express my concern about recent and continuing discussion regarding EPA cleanup in Libby and the location of Environmental Restoration's base camp behind Les Schwab. I live next door and I bought the home before ER moved in. I was never warned that ER was moving there. I had expressed my concern regarding all the heavy equipment parked on my property line. There are vacuum trailers, big trucks, huge pipes, storage trailers, water storage and other equipment lined up next to my house. My sons and I have had an increase in respiratory illness because of the large amount of dust and other particles that ER's traffic causes. My view is obstructed when I am backing out, I can not see oncoming traffic because the big equipment is in the way. I spoke with ER personnel and they basically shrugged it off and stated that they could not do anything about that. My neighbor raised concern and ER watered down the dirt once in awhile. During ER's peak time of movement, the dust is too much. It is not fair that we are being subjected to breathe the air and contaminants that ER is stirring up and do not appear to be taking any precautions or care for their surroundings. It is hard to trust an entity, such as the EPA, that gives lip service to protect the health and safety of the Libby residents and then allows their subcontractors, such as ER, to operate in such a manner as to bring the contamination to our doorsteps. The attic in my home was cleaned and I was told I have asbestos in the walls and car port roof but that it would not be cleaned. I was told that I have it in the yard and then CDM told me that there was not any in the yard. To be honest, during the time my house was being "cleaned" it was like a 3 ring circus dealing with the local EPA staff and the CDM staff, no one listens to your concerns, and Karen Berry was rude and dismissive. Now there still seems to be a lack of communication between the different agencies. ER staff is evasive and dismissive regarding any concerns I express. I would like to know if EPA is really concerned with the health and well being of the residents of Libby. My experience with the EPA and it's entities does not convey any concern for my health, my family's health or my neighbors and community's health or well being. Attached are some concerns and questions that continue. There is a published report that Mike Cirian admits that asbestos is present in MY neighborhood, thanks to ER.

I am looking forward to your response.

Sincerely,



We have been researching, and found this post from June 2006.

Julie, This has been going on for at least three years in the specific areas I referenced (near the schools, food sources, residential areas and hotels and other businesses which mean unsuspecting travelers have also been subject to this), according to this published report:

#### **Public Comment**

*Audience Member Question - I received a call on Tuesday that an ER truck had spilled contaminated material on the highway in front of the Les Schwab Tire Center. The contamination was discovered by Les Schwab employees sweeping the area. Did EPA receive a report of this incident?*

Answer by Mike Cirian - No. This is the first I have heard of it.

*Audience Member Question - Has EPA had a report of vermiculite in ER's yard?*

Answer by Mike Cirian - Yes. We have found quite a bit in ER's yard. The contamination was cordoned off and swept up.

*CAG Member Question - What was the source of the contamination in the ER yard?*

Answer by Mike Cirian - We don't know.

*CAG Member Comment - We have had problems with the decontamination of trucks in the past.*

*The contractor should be accountable for decontamination.*

Answer by Mike Cirian - We will look into this.

*Audience Member Comment - It is fortunate that MDT is here to hear about the contamination of EPA contractor trucks.*

#### **Future Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. on July 13, 2006 in the Ponderosa Room of Libby City Hall. Gerald Mueller announced that he will not be able to be present at this meeting, and EPA's Ted Linnert will facilitate the meeting.

**Does anyone know why the visiting supervisors have not addressed any of this?**

**April 29, 2009**

An organization for government environmental workers say a report from EPA's IG criticizes the agency's cleanup of asbestos in Libby.

It's a bit bizarre to me to be sitting in the back row of a Montana courtroom listening to another day of testimony in the criminal trial of W.R. Grace, while at the same time writing about reported cleanup problems of the lethal mess the same company made in the town of Libby.

Just to keep people (including me) from becoming confused, let me stress that this has nothing to do with the charges against Grace.

Nevertheless, here's what Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility had to say today about the investigation in 2006 by EPA's inspector general's office.

The IG said it found no need for criminal action after its review of the cleanup, but PEER, a union-like organization that sued to get a report on investigation made public, said there were "critical deficiencies" in the agency's actions.

The suit prompted the release yesterday of the of a 2006 investigation by IG Special Agent Cory Rumble.

Rumble was looking into allegations of public health concerns about the methods employed by EPA to remove asbestos-contaminated vermiculite from homes within Libby.

Accord to PEER, problems found by Rumble included:

- A thorough "disconnect between scientists and the agency" over how to conduct the clean-up; distribution of "exceptionally deceiving" public health information to Libby residents and fighting within the EPA that led to "dysfunctional decisions and resignations of key specialists.

Because of the ongoing Grace trial, none of the EPA people that I called for comment who were involved in the cleanup were permitted to talk, though some were eager.

PEER Executive Jeff Ruch says the IG report "raises more questions than it answers, including why it was hidden from the public."

Rumble's clear conclusion in his report that the Libby problems did not constitute criminal violations, the IG nevertheless launched a 21-month-long criminal investigation which resulted in the Justice Department declining to bring any charges.

"As a result of the Inspector General pursuing a fruitless criminal inquiry, today we still do not have a clear idea of whether the Libby clean-up is protective of the public," Ruch added.